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Adult Education Centres.

* 1876 *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of Adult Education centres in Malabar within and outside the Community Project and National Extension Service areas as on 15th November 1954; and

(*b*) why the Government have passed orders discontinuing the payment of grant to Adult Education Centres functioning in the Project and National Extension Service areas?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The total number of adult schools within the Community Project and the National Extension Service areas was 133. The total number of schools outside those areas was 206 but those schools were closed from 1st October 1954, when the Modified Scheme of Adult Education was introduced.

" (*b*) The Government have not passed any order discontinuing grants to adult schools functioning in the Project and National Extension Service areas. If the Member wants to know why grants were discontinued to schools outside those areas, then I may inform him that, under the Modified Scheme of Adult Education, the Government considered it desirable in the light of the experience gained in the working of the scheme so far, to confine their activities to the Community Project and the National Extension Service areas, for the present."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" While appreciating the attitude of the Government in continuing and encouraging adult education in areas where the National Extension Service and Community Projects are in vogue, may I know from the Hon. Minister why the 200 and odd institutions outside those areas which were already in existence have been closed? It will be very harmful also to the nation if it is not to be taken up until the National Extension Service and Community Projects embrace all the areas. So, will the Government see that the adult education centres which were in existence already are allowed to continue? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I would request the hon. Member to look into the debate and also the answers I have already given with reference to the policy adopted by the Government in respect of adult education. The general experience of the Government has been that these adult education schools have not been working properly. We want to concentrate on the people belonging to the age group between 12 and 18 so that adult illiteracy can be liquidated at that stage without being tackled at a later stage. So, we are utilizing all the available resources to tackle the illiteracy at a very early stage."

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Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Since the area covered by the Community Projects and the National Extension Service is very limited and since it will take five years for those schemes to spread all over, have the Government any scheme to deal with adult education in those areas that are not covered by those schemes? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Voluntary efforts may come into play there."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Whereas the old adult education scheme had proved to be fruitless, the Government were pleased to think about the modified adult education scheme. Are the Government aware of the fact that even this scheme, in spite of the enormous amount of money spent on it, has not produced tangible results? In the light of such experience, will the Government drop the proposal and concentrate this money upon the regular education scheme? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This matter will be reviewed after gaining experience for about a year. It has been only recently started. If what the hon. Member has stated is true, certainly we may have to revise this scheme also."

3-40 p.m. Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it the Government view that social equality and justice will be promoted by concentrating material development as well as educational facilities in the same area rather than spreading it in different parts of the district or the country? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, whatever we do has got to be effective. We cannot disperse our efforts in such a way that it does not produce any result at all. That is why we are concentrating in certain areas to find out whether it would work successfully."

Sri C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there are many adult education centres which worked very well, will the Government consider the question again and revise their decision? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, even now there is no ban on voluntary effort continuing the adult education centres. Therefore they can continue them."

Treatment for snake-bites.

* 1878 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many panchayats in Malabar have been permitted by the Government to incur expenditure on medical treatment for snake bite in 1954 ; and

(*b*) how many of them have been refused permission by the Government in the year 1954 ; and why?